

FY 2000 Wetlands Protection Project Grant Summary

Colorado

Title: Comprehensive Statewide Wetlands Characterization and Classification
Organization: Colorado Natural Heritage Program
General Services Building #254
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523
Contact: Denise Culver
970-491-2998

Project Description:

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) proposes to coordinate the planning and designing of a Comprehensive Statewide Wetlands Classification and Characterization (CSWCC) effort. Such an endeavor is a key component of the on-going effort to define a Statewide Wetlands Strategy model for Colorado. In 1999, CSWCC incorporated all existing research and identified the data gaps. To accomplish these overall goals, this proposal shall continue its Statewide Strategy effort with the following:

- 1) conduct field sampling to classify wetlands;
- 2) identify reference sites and describe the ecological significance and environmental attributes of wetland plant communities;
- 3) rank and prioritize each wetland plant association in terms of imperilment and biodiversity significance;
- 4) conduct field work to characterize the wetland and identify functions;
- 5) prepare a final report documenting the Comprehensive Statewide Wetlands Characterization and Classification.

Funding: Total Project \$ 68,000
EPA Funds 50,000
State Match 18,000

Hydrologic Unit Codes: N/A

Title: Natural Heritage Inventory and Assessment of Wetlands in Garfield County
Organization: Colorado Natural Heritage Program
General Services Building #254
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523
Contact: Denise Culver
970-491-2998

Project Description:

In cooperation with Garfield County and other interested parties, the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) proposes to inventory and evaluate wetlands throughout Garfield County. The objective of this inventory and evaluation will be to identify high-quality examples of all types of wetland/riparian areas in the study area (using the CNHP's Statewide Wetland Classification and Characterization), to identify the natural heritage value of each site, and to identify and evaluate the functions associated with the wetlands.

CNHP will implement the proposed project in several steps, including: (1) locating wetlands to be included as "Target Inventory Areas" using aerial photos and other resources; (2) contacting landowners as necessary to explain our purpose and request permission to access sites on private land; (3) conducting field inventories to characterize Targeted Inventory Areas and to assess functions; and (4) preparing a final report and maps for use by Garfield County, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Natural Areas Program, and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Funding: Total Project \$ 74,069
 EPA Funds 54,069
 State Match 20,000

Hydrologic Unit Codes: 14010001, 14010004, 14010005, 14010006, 14010007, 14050001, 14050005, 14050006, 14050007

Title: Natural Heritage Inventory and Assessment of Wetlands in Pueblo and El Paso Counties

Organization: Colorado Natural Heritage Program
 General Services Building #254
 Colorado State University
 Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

Contact: Denise Culver
 970-491-2998

Project Description:

In cooperation with Pueblo and El Paso counties and other interested parties, the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) proposes to inventory and evaluate wetlands throughout Pueblo and El Paso counties. The objective of this inventory and evaluation will be to identify high-quality examples of all types of wetlands/riparian areas in the study area (using the CNHP's Statewide Wetland Classification), to identify the natural heritage value of each site, and to identify and evaluate the functions associated with the wetlands.

CNHP will implement the proposed project in several steps, including: (1) locating wetlands to be included as "Target Inventory Areas" using aerial photos and other resources; (2) contacting landowners as necessary to explain our purpose and request permission to access sites on private land; (3) conducting field inventories to characterize Targeted Inventory Areas and to assess functions; and (4) preparing a final report and maps for use by Pueblo and El Paso counties, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Natural Areas Program, and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Funding: Total Project \$ 83,977
 EPA Funds 63,977
 State Match 20,000

Hydrologic Unit Codes: 11020002, 11020003, 11020004, 11020005, 11020006, 11020007,
 11020008, 11020011, 10190003, 10190010, 10190011

Title: Identification, Evaluation and Conservation of Wetlands of Statewide
 Significance in Colorado

Organization: Colorado Natural Areas Program
 1313 Sherman St., Suite 618
 Denver, Colorado 80203

Contact: Kathy Carsey
 303-866-3203 X330

Project Description:

The Wetland Identification, Evaluation, and Protection program was established to increase the representation of wetlands and riparian areas in the Natural Area system. We initially estimated that it would take at least five years to adequately survey the state for significant wetlands and identify most of the sites that should be part of the Natural Area system. While many of the state's significant wetlands have been identified through this program, much remains to be done. Fewer than half of the state's counties have been thoroughly surveyed for their wetland resources.

This year CNAP will extend wetland evaluation efforts in several remaining critical areas of the state, areas where growth is imminent and where few wetlands are currently protected. Previous efforts focused on the mountainous areas of the state and on the western slope. The proposed project will focus on the eastern plains and the lower San Luis Valley evaluation of Alamosa and Costilla counties by conducting a regional analysis of riparian areas and wetlands in southeastern Colorado and completing an inventory and evaluation of playa lakes/interdunal wetlands in northeast Colorado. In addition, the proposed project will increase and accelerate wetland protection by developing methods to facilitate Natural Area registry and designation, and provide stewardship planning for wetlands on Colorado Natural Areas.

Funding: Total Project \$100,100
 EPA Funds 75,000
 State Match 25,100

Hydrologic Unit Codes: N/A

Title: Colorado Wetlands Initiative Landowner Outreach Program (2 year project - Phase I)

Organization: Trust For Public Land
 1410 Grant Street, Suite B-304
 Denver, Colorado 80203

Contact: Doug Robotham
 303-291-7141

Project Description:

The Trust for Public Land will execute a two year work plan, the goal of which is to effectively communicate with, educate, and provide technical assistance to landowners concerning the financial and natural resource benefits of working with the Colorado Wetlands Initiative (CWI). This Program will work to meet the growing demand from interested landowners for detailed information on ways to voluntarily protect privately owned wetlands and ensure that these interested land-owners, as potential partners with the CWI become well-informed and sophisticated participants in discussions concerning ways to voluntarily protect their land.

Well-informed landowners can make sound, independent judgments concerning different approaches to protecting wetlands on their properties which is absolutely essential to the effective and efficient conservation and enhancement of the state's overall wetland resources. In addition, well-informed landowners who choose to work with the CWI can help ensure that transaction costs are minimized, can ensure effective long-term stewardship, create leveraging opportunities that ensure scarce resources go further, and can ensure more effective working partnerships.

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| Funding: | Total Project | \$ 41,920 |
| | EPA Funds | 20,000 |
| | State Match | 21,920 |

Hydrologic Unit Codes: N/A

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|---------------|---|
| Title: | Water Protection Planning for South Park Fens and San Luis Valley Wetlands |
| Organization: | The Nature Conservancy 1881 Ninth Street, Suite 200 Boulder, Colorado 80302 |
| Contact: | Nancy Smith 303-444-2950 |

Project Description:

The Nature Conservancy proposes to undertake water protection planning in four high priority conservation areas where there has been a significant investment in community-based conservation and in land protection, but where the water has not been adequately protected to ensure that the wetlands and riparian values of protected lands are not lost over the long term. Both South Park and San Luis Valley are Wetland Program Focus Areas. The other areas, the Arickaree River and the San Miguel River watershed, have been identified by the Division of Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy as Priority Conservation Areas.

The project will synthesize the current scientific understandings of how much water is needed to sustain the wetlands' native plants, animals and natural communities; assess how the water budget (i.e., water inflow, use and outflow) for the watershed and connected aquifers can be balanced for both natural and human communities; propose how water rights can be established within that budget for the wetlands and natural landscape, and provide water resource planning

for the public and private members of the Wetlands Program and Focus Areas.

Funding: Total Project \$ 114,000
 EPA Funds 54,000
 State Match 60,000
Hydrologic Unit Codes: 10250001, 13010003, 14030003, 10190001

Title: Lower Gunnison River Basin Conservation Lands Inventory
Organization: Delta Soil Conservation District
 690 Industrial Boulevard
 Delta, Colorado 81416
Contact: Robert Molacek
 970-874-5726

Project Description:

The Lower Gunnison River Basin Conservation Lands Inventory is a riparian assessment project that will build upon our previous efforts funded through the FY1999 104(b)(3) program. Our FY1999 project is successfully identifying riparian conservation projects. We are currently working with several private landowners to place over 100 riparian acres into conservation easements and improve over 50 acres of riparian property. Additional conservation projects are also currently being identified and have also established various conservation partners through our FY1999 project. This proposal will to continue this effort expanding the geographic extent of our study area.

This project will identify riparian areas that are valuable for preservation and/or suitable for restoration through a scientific inventory and rating system of their condition. The FY2000 project will examine tributaries to the North Fork of the Gunnison River and tributaries to the mainstem of the Gunnison River downstream from the confluence with the North Fork. The project will produce a list of conservation projects based on their biological significance and private landowners that are willing to implement the best conservation practices on their land. Long-term success will be measured by the riparian acreage improved or placed in conservation easements.

Funding: Total Project \$ 50,640
 EPA Funds 37,900
 State Match 12,740
Hydrologic Unit Codes: 14020004, 14020005

Title: St. Vrain Creek Riparian Protection Program
Organization: City of Longmont & Boulder County Parks
 Water/Wastewater Department
 1100 South Sherman Street
 Longmont, Colorado 80501

Contact: Kevin Boden
303-774-4516

Project Description:

The major focus for this project will be to develop a comprehensive wetlands/riparian program that will protect and enhance the St. Vrain Creek along its entire length from Button Rock Preserve to the confluence with Boulder Creek. This proposal will achieve the following goals:

- 1) inventory riparian and wetland areas, identify current water quality impacts, identify protection efforts that can be undertaken, and develop a comprehensive plan to complete the protection efforts.
- 2) identify and develop a stakeholder group to help guide the program.
- 3) assist in the development of a conservation plan for threatened and endangered species in the basin.
- 4) develop and implement a Watershed Protection plan for the St. Vrain Creek basin.

Funding: Total Project \$ 45,000
EPA Funds 25,000
State Match 20,000
Hydrologic Unit Codes: 10190005

Title: Sombrero Marsh Restoration and Education
Organization: City of Boulder Open Space Department
66 South Cherryvale Road
Boulder, Colorado 80303
Contact: Don D'Amico
303-441-4142

Project Description:

Sombrero Marsh is the only naturally occurring perennial water body of its size in the Boulder Valley, totaling over 20 acres. It is also unique in that it is an inland salt marsh and supports halophytic wetland plants and community types that are uncommon in the region. In recognition of its ecological importance, Sombrero Marsh is designated an environmental preservation area, a critical wetland and critical wildlife habitat for Wilson's phalarope and various species of raptors in the Boulder County and Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plans. Preservation is also important to help meet the goals of the City's Wetland Protection Ordinance.

To further the City of Boulder Open Space Department's project goals of acquisition, preservation, restoration and education at Sombrero Marsh, this proposal will integrate the following:

restoration planning
restoration monitoring
information dissemination on wetlands restoration

initial educational program planning for the environmental education activities that will take place at the marsh.

Funding: Total Project \$ 60,000
 EPA Funds 22,000
 State Match 38,000
Hydrologic Unit Codes: 10190005

Title: Enhancement of Wetlands Management in Summit County (2 year project - Phase I)
Organization: Summit County Planning Department
 P.O. Box 5660
 Frisco, Colorado 80443
Contact: Brian Lorch
 970-668-4214

Project Description:

This innovative pilot project is being initiated as a collaborative effort between the Summit County Government, the six towns located in the Blue River watershed, the Colorado DNR Wetlands Program, and federal wetland regulatory agencies, all of whom have adopted or expressed support for the recently formalized Summit County integrated wetlands management strategy. The long-term intent of this project is to promote partnerships and to develop the institutional infrastructure needed to address the impacts of rapid growth on wetlands in the Blue River watershed. The project is being developed to address several key community objectives including intergovernmental cooperation, improved voluntary regulatory compliance, community environmental education, and reduced degradation of wetlands.

The following key objectives have been identified to reach the goals of this project:

- 1) develop watershed stakeholder partnerships to refine and gain support for a new wetland protection strategy,
- 2) develop public- private partnerships to implement wetland protection projects,
- 3) develop program infrastructure for implementing wetland restoration projects,
- 4) advance the scientific tools for identifying and protecting important wetland functions,
- 5) incorporate wetland management strategies into Basin and Town Master Plans,
- 6) investigate the potential for wetland mitigation banking as a solution,
- 7) improve public access to wetland information.

Funding: Total Project \$ 52,500
 EPA Funds 40,000
 State Match 12,500
Hydrologic Unit Codes: 14010002

Title: Hydrology/Geomorphology of Wetlands - A Wetlands Protection Planning Tool
for Cucumber Gulch
Organization: Town of Breckenridge
P.O. Box 168
Breckenridge, Colorado 80424
Contact: Heide Anderson
970-547-3110

Project Description:

The goal of this proposal is to develop a wetlands protection-planning tool designed to outline the hydrologically sensitive areas that, if developed or otherwise altered, could impact the wetlands of Cucumber Gulch in Summit County. The project will study the hydrologic flow into the wetland by outlining the bedrock and geomorphic units and combining this information with the previous studies of this area. In addition it will provide information as to the conduits for water into the wetland and generate alternatives and recommendations for the Town of Breckenridge to consider as it approves development of the surrounding area and attempt to minimize hydrologic impacts to the wetland.

It is important to assess where water for wetlands comes from and how it flows along surface and subsurface paths to arrive at the wetlands. These hydrologic aspects are controlled by the geology and geomorphology of the wetland and the surrounding area. Important aspects related to the geology and geomorphology to be characterized during this study include depth of bedrock, overburden attributes, conduits for groundwater flow and recharge, and total volume of groundwater entering the groundwater system. These characterizations will be accomplished through coring and geophysical methods and integrated with existing information collected by Vail Resorts, the Town of Breckenridge and Summit County as a cooperative effort.

Funding: Total Project \$ 26,100
EPA Funds 19,200
State Match 6,900
Hydrologic Unit Codes: 14010002

Montana

1) Title: Wetland Conservation in Montana
Agency: Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Avenue,
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, Montana 59620-0901
Contact: Lynda Saul
406-444-6652
FAX 406-444-6836

Project Description:

This project provides resources to MDEQ to: 1) Coordinate, oversee, and administer the EPA State Wetlands Protection Grant Program and other potential wetlands conservation funding

sources (50%); 2) Provide outreach and expertise to local governments to promote, encourage and support local government wetland conservation programs (20%); 3) Lead and direct the Montana Wetlands Council by planning, organizing and facilitating quarterly Council meetings (20%); 4) Integrate wetland restoration into TMDL and statewide transportation improvement program planning (10%).

Funding: Total Project \$ 81,500
 EPA Funds 61,125
 State Match 20,375

Hydrologic Unit Codes: N/A

2) Title: Inventory and Prioritization of Ecologically Significant Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Montana for Conservation, Mitigation and Restoration
Agency: Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP)
 Montana State Library
 1515 East Sixth Avenue
 Helena, Montana 59620
Contact: Catherine Jean, Wetland Ecologist & Stephen Cooper, Ecologist
 406-444-0915, 444-3009,
 FAX 406-444-0581

Project Description:

This project will complete the field inventory and ecological evaluation of high quality wetlands in the Upper Yellowstone Watershed, and assemble information on high quality wetlands and riparian areas from reports and databases around the State to make them accessible through MNHP computerized databases. Upper Yellowstone wetland inventory/evaluation efforts will complete work started last year and will focus on the Shields, Stillwater, Upper Yellowstone Lake Basin, Clarks Fork Yellowstone and Upper Yellowstone downstream from Park County. The product of these efforts will be a database of wetland information on high quality wetlands in the Upper Yellowstone Watershed. This information will be disseminated in a project report; internet posting of project highlights, and presentations to watershed partners. It is hoped that such information can be used to focus attention on and prioritize conservation, mitigation and restoration efforts for these high quality wetlands. The second part of the project will focus on assembling information on a statewide basis from existing data sources and extracting valuable data on ecologically significant wetlands to make the data more accessible for the purpose of prioritizing conservation, mitigation, and restoration efforts.

Funding: Total Project \$ 119,165
 EPA Funds 89,373
 Match 29,791

Hydrologic Unit Codes: N/A

3) Title: Facilitating Landowner and Local Government Stewardship of Montana's Wetlands
Agency: Montana Watercourse

201 Culbertson Hall,
P.O. Box 170575
Bozeman, Montana 59717-0575
Contact: Mary Ellen Wolfe
406-994-6671
FAX 406-994-1919

Project Description:

The project involves preparation of a Land Use Planning Guide for Local Wetlands Protection in Montana, which is intended to serve as a wetlands protection guidebook for local government planning boards. This project also involves providing five wetlands stewardship workshops for landowners that are complemented by Wonders of Wetlands workshops for the landowner's children to allow involvement of the whole family in wetlands education. The Montana Watercourse will also participate in HGM training workshops held by the Flathead Lake Biological Station and consult on education for a local government wetland restoration project at Boulder Hot Springs in cooperation with the Jefferson County Conservation District.

Funding: Total Project \$126,856
 EPA Funds \$ 95,388
 Match 31,468

Hydrologic Unit Codes: N/A

4) Title: A Key to Wetland Plant Genera
Agency: Montana Wetlands Trust
 517 Waukesha
 Helena, Montana 59601
Contact: Charles Van Hook.
 406-442-3199

Project Description:

This project involves publication of an illustrated key for wetland plants in Montana to facilitate plant identification. This guide will be a field manual. Preparation of this guide was initiated by a former Nature Conservancy ecologist and NRCS biologist with Blackfeet tribal wetland grant and NRCS funding to facilitate wetland plant identification for a training class for the Blackfeet Tribe. The NRCS and others have shown an interest in this guide for training NRCS field staff, and would like to field test and improve and publish the guide for wider distribution to facilitate lay person identification of wetland plants in Montana. NRCS is assisting in funding the project.

Funding: Total Project \$14,037
 EPA Funds 8,000
 Match 2,667 (plus \$3370 of NRCS funds)

Hydrologic Unit Codes: N/A

5) Title: Flathead Basin Volunteer Monitoring
Agency: Flathead Basin Commission

33 2nd Street East
Kalispell, Montana 59901
Contact: Mark Holston, Volunteer Monitor Program
406-752-0081
FAX 406-752-0095

Project Description:

This project involves training up to 15 citizen volunteers in techniques of wetland assessment in a four day training program, and design and implementation of a wetland volunteer monitoring program. Trained volunteers will participate in a three times per year survey of designated wetlands collecting and recording field data. This will complement a lake and stream water quality volunteer monitoring program that has been implemented by the Flathead Basin Commission since 1992.

Funding: Total Project \$ 11,250
 EPA Funds 7,750
 Match 3,500

Hydrologic Unit Codes:

6) Title: A Wetlands Community Partnership Project - Phase II
Agency: Lewis & Clark County Water Quality Protection District
 1930 9th Avenue
 Helena, Montana 59601
Contact: Kathy Moore, Administrator
 406-447-1668

Project Description:

This project builds upon the previous Phase 1 local government project funded in 1998. Phase 2 of this project will; 1) prioritize wetlands identified in Phase 1, including identification of wetlands most suitable for restoration, with an ultimate goal of no net loss; 2) Advocate for wetlands protection with two seminars to key stakeholders such as city and county commissioners, permittees, developers, surveyors, landowners, and realtors based on the information collected in Phase 1; 3) Educate local decision makers and the public about the value of wetlands; and 4) Provide options to decision makers and citizens about ways to protect and preserve wetlands. State has recommended with limited funding to prioritize Goal 1.

Funding: Total Project \$29,300
 EPA Funds 21,975
 Match 7,325

Hydrologic Unit Codes:

7) Title: Training of HGM Functional Assessment of Wetlands to Federal, State, and
 Tribal Wetland Managers and Scientists
Agency: University of Montana, Flathead Lake Biological Station
 311 BioStation Lane

Polson, Montana 59860-9659
Contact: Dr. Richard Hauer Bradley J. Cook
406-982-3301 406-243-5935
FAX 406-982-3201 406-243-4184

Project Description:

This project involves the conduct of workshops to educate Federal, State, and Tribal agency staff regarding the HGM approach to wetland functional assessment, and in particular the field use of the HGM Intermontane Prairie Depressional (Pothole) Wetlands Model and the HGM Wetlands of Gravel Bed River Floodplains Model. These models have been developed by the Flathead Lake Biological Station in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, MS for these wetland types in the northern Rocky Mountains. Printed HGM model guidebooks and will be provided to 30-35 participants at 3 day workshops for each model. Workshops will involve lecture, practical mitigation scenarios, and field exercises. Requested funds have been reduced and fees to non-governmental entities may be charged if costs of providing training requires additional funding.

Funding: Total Project \$ 26,667
EPA Funds 20,000
State Match 6,667

Hydrologic Unit Codes: N/A

NORTH DAKOTA

Title: Grant Administration
Grantee Organization: ND State Water Commission
Contact Name: Brett Hovde
Phone: (701) 328-4968
Address: 900 East Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND 58505-0850
Other Partners: None

Project Description:

Grant Administration to include timely progress, annual, and final reports from the State Water Commission and all project sponsors, and to coordinate the development of future proposals that complement the wetland protection goals of EPA.

Funding: Total Project \$ 17,710
EPA Funds 13,280
State Match 4,430

HUC: N/A

Title: Comparison of NRI and NWI Federal Wetlands Maps
Grantee Organization: ND State Water Commission

Contact Name: Joe Martinetti
Phone: (701) 328-4753
Address: 900 East Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND 58505-0850
Other Partners: None

Project Description:

This project will stem off of the previous year's delineation and analysis of watersheds. Processing techniques created by the FY99 Watershed and Wetland Grant for the delineation of watersheds will be used to create sub-basins within the Upper Sheyenne River watershed. Information gathered from the NRI and land use data, along with soils, roads, slope, and other spatial datasets, will be used for preliminary analysis within the watershed. Techniques for analyzing the datasets provided will be created using ArcInfo and ArcView. Programming within ArcInfo will be done using ArcInfo's scripting language, Arc Macro Language (AML) and Visual Basic. ArcView programming will be completed using ArcView's scripting language, Avenue and Visual Basic. Scripts already available will be used to include modeling routines, such as HEC-RAS and HEC-HMS, within ArcView using the Spatial Analyst and 3D Analyst extensions.

Deliverable items at the time of completion of this project will be a CD containing base datasets for use within the watershed, such as roads (primary, secondary, and primitive), Public Land Survey System (PLSS), political boundaries, soils, slope, aspect, watersheds, and streams. Also included will be a dataset containing the NWI, NRCS wetlands, and NRI data and a report summarizing the analysis. Scripts written in AML, Avenue, and Visual Basic for map display and query will also be included.

Funding: Total Project \$69,022
 EPA Funds 51,767
 State Match 17,255
HUC: 09020203 (upper Sheyenne River)

Title: North Dakota Wetlands Management Handbook
Grantee Organization: ND Water Education Foundation/ND Wetlands Institute
Contact Name: Michael Dwyer
Phone: (701) 223-8332
Address: 1830 North 11th Street, Bismarck, ND 58501
Other Partners: None

Project Description:

This project is to develop and publish a Second Edition North Dakota Wetlands Management Handbook, to replace the original 1990 handbook. The original North Dakota Wetlands Management Handbook is out of print and outdated. The Wetlands Management Handbook provides technical and legal information about wetlands in North Dakota. Water and wildlife professionals, wetland regulatory staffs, and other decision makers have expressed a strong interest

in having an updated version that reflects changes in legislation and policies since 1990.

The deliverable of this project is 1,000 copies of a Second Edition North Dakota Wetlands Management Handbook to be distributed to water managers, wildlife professionals, regulatory staff, and other decision makers.

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| Funding: | Total Project | \$40,000 |
| | EPA Funds | 30,000 |
| | State Match | 10,000 |

HUC: N/A

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| Title: | Demonstrations of Conservation Agriculture for Preserving Wetlands |
| Grantee Organization: | North Dakota Wetlands Trust |
| Contact Name: | Sharon Clancy |
| Phone: | (701) 662-4088, ext. 123 |
| Address: | PO Box 3175, Bismarck, ND 58502 |
| Other Partners: | US Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and North Dakota State University Extension Service, other farm agencies |

Project Description:

This project is to engage four Drift Prairie farmers in offering their farms to be included in a five year demonstration project funded by non-profit organizations, federal and state agencies, and grant funded resources. The project will be directed by a thirteen-member advisory board, comprised of eight farmers and five agency representatives. A coordinator will establish a resource analysis team, which will evaluate, along with the farmer, each farm's resources and develop a whole farm plan that will increase net profit while preserving landscape functions and meeting societal needs. A digital database will be developed for all wetland acres on four demonstration farms in the Drift Prairie Region of North Dakota. A baseline invertebrate composition will be determined for selected wetlands on each of the four farms. Additionally, baseline land use within watersheds and on respective farms will be prepared and analyzed. Current land use, land use change, and non-crop use will be digitized and wall maps will be generated for watershed education workshops at each of the four demonstration farms. A final report and databases will be the deliverables.

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| Funding: | Total Project | \$76,659 |
| | EPA Funds | 57,494 |
| | State Match | 19,165 |

HUC: 09020201 (Devils Lake)

UTAH

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| Title: | Wetland Grant Administration |
| Organization: | Utah Division of Wildlife Resources 1594 West North Temple |

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301
Contact: Jaye Melcher
801-538-4864

Project Description:

Grant Administration to include timely progress, annual, and final reports from the State Water Commission and all project sponsors, and to coordinate the development of future proposals that complement the wetland protection goals of EPA.

Funding: Total Project \$ 8,483
 EPA Funds 6,362
 State Match 2,121

Hydrologic Unit Codes: N/A

Title: National Wetlands Month Activities
Organization: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
 1594 West North Temple
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301
Contact: Jaye Melcher
 801-538-4864

Project Description:

The objective of this project is to coordinate and conduct educational outreach activities during Wetlands Month in May 2001. The UDWR Wetlands Program staff will coordinate planning for Wetlands Month events in Utah, which include educational activities at sites such as UDWR Waterfowl Management Areas, wetland preserves owned by The Nature Conservancy, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife refuges. UDWR will prepare and distribute informational material for each site, including displays, brochures, and information on activities being conducted by UDWR and other wetland protection organizations. The educational material will take into account the educational needs and interests of different audiences identified through surveys and focus groups conducted during development of the master education plan for the Greater Salt Lake Ecosystem wetlands.

Funding: Total Project \$ 11,324
 EPA Funds 8,493
 State Match 2,831

Hydrologic Unit Codes: N/A

Title: Development of a Wetlands Permitting and Conservation Tracking System.
Organization: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
 1594 West North Temple
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301
Contact: Jaye Melcher
 801-538-4864

Project Description:

The Utah division of wildlife Resources (UDWR) proposes to collect information on wetlands permitting and conservation activities and to enter this information in UDWR's wetlands GIS database. The UDWR will obtain information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, non-profit conservation groups, and others involved in wetlands conservation. Information to be collected will include wetland location, type, acreage, ownership, and nature of activities. The UDWR will produce an annual report summarizing trends in wetlands permitting and conservation.

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| Funding: | Total Project | \$ 26,597 |
| | EPA Funds | 19,948 |
| | State Match | 6,649 |

Hydrologic Unit Codes: N/A

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| Title: | GIS analysis of aquatic resources in Salt Lake, Utah, and Wasatch Counties. |
| Organization: | Utah Division of Wildlife Resources 1594 West North Temple Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301 |
| Contact: | Jaye Melcher 801-538-4864 |

Project Description:

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) began developing a wetlands GIS database in June 1998. The initial objective of that project was to identify and map wetlands that are a priority for protection because of high wildlife value. The database has been most extensively developed for UDWR's Northern Region, where ArcView GIS coverages have been developed for the region's seven counties. The maps depict wetland planning classes which were developed for each county based on criteria such as wetland characteristics and the relationship of wetlands to the surrounding landscape. The planning classes include: 1) currently protected areas; 2) areas adjacent to currently protected areas; 3) areas containing wetlands at risk from urban development; and 4) areas associated with a specific landscape feature, such as a river.

Additional features included on each county map include all wetlands identified on National Wetland Inventory maps, streams and rivers, urban areas, and major road. This current project would produce similar maps for three additional counties in UDWR's Central Region which have significant wetland resources and are experiencing rapid growth and development. UDWR has been collecting GPS data on important wetlands in the Central Region. These data would be much more meaningful for conservation and planning purposes if they could be displayed in GIS coverages that include additional information such as surrounding land use, urban areas, and projected urban growth. The maps will be used by UDWR to help finalize priorities for wetland conservation, and will be made available to county planners and commissioners, other resource agencies, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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| Funding: | Total Project | \$ 76,537 |
| | EPA Funds | 57,417 |
| | State Match | 19,120 |

Hydrologic Unit Codes: 16020102, 16020204

Title: Develop an HGM Functional Assessment model for the wet meadow subclass of Great Salt Lake slope wetlands.

Organization: Governors Office of Planning and Budget
116 State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Contact: Nancy Keate
801-538-1548

Project Description:

The wet meadow subclass of slope wetland is the most common wetland type around the Great Salt Lake and is also the most threatened. There are four functional types within this subclass based on landscape position and salinity. Reports of the functional assessments and methods for the subclasses will be created. Reports will be reviewed, tested and revised by the Utah A team. Functional assessment reports will then be available for use by other agencies and groups. This will result in further revisions and refinements to the models. An additional report will be made to correlate and document the impacts from adjacent land uses to the functional ratings of the wetlands.

Funding: Total Project \$ 123,969
EPA Funds 93,000
State Match 30,969

Hydrologic Unit Codes: 16020102, 16020204

WYOMING

Title: Wetland Habitat Improvement at Created Wetlands in Wyoming

Grantee Organization: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Contact Name: Mark McKinstry and Stanley Anderson
Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Box 3166, Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-5415

Email: markmck@uwyo.edu; anderson@uwyo.edu

Partners: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Project Description:

In northeast Wyoming over 1,500 wetlands have been created through bentonite mining activities since the early to mid 1900's. Many of these wetland areas are important to wildlife, fish, and livestock. Bentonite mining in northeast Wyoming and associated wetland creation is ongoing and projected to increase in the future due to increased demands for bentonite-related products.

Aquatic vegetation at these created sites has been slow to establish due to a lack of natural seed sources and poor growing conditions. Recent research has shown that aquatic plants will

establish if growing conditions are improved and if seeds and propagules are introduced. Our goal is to develop cost-effective techniques that could be applied during the construction phase to improve these wetlands for wildlife. Our 250 ha demonstration area will highlight techniques that industry and conservation groups can employ to improve created wetlands within this region.

With the successful completion of this project we will attempt to gain the support of other groups to improve habitat at additional sites. Furthermore, techniques developed in the reclamation of bentonite wetlands may prove useful during wetland creation at coal-mined areas, Department of Transportation projects, and coal-bed methane wastewater wetlands.

Funding: Total: \$208,665
 EPA Share: \$70,000
 Match:\$138,665
Hydrologic Unit Codes: 10120201

TRIBES

SHOSHONE AND ARAPAHOE TRIBES

Project Title: Assessment of wetlands in the upper mainstem Wind River Watershed
Agency: Office of the Tribal Water Engineer
 Shoshone & Arapahoe Tribes
 Box 217
 Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514
Contact: Gary Collins
 307-332-3164

Funding: Total project \$91,923
 EPA funds 54,500
 Tribal match 36,769

The Tribe will create an assessment workplan describing the schedule of activities and projects necessary to complete a review of the wetlands for the entire Reservation. They will also complete an assessment report of the wetlands for the upper mainstem of the Wind River. This report will include maps and a narrative description of the wetland areas, an inventory of potential threats and contamination sources, and a susceptibility analysis.

SPIRIT LAKE NATION

Project Title: Development of a basic wetlands protection program
Agency: Spirit Lake Tribe
 Tribal Environmental Office
 P.O. Box 99
 Fort Totten, North Dakota 58335
Contact: Silas Ironheart

701-766-1208
Funding: Total project \$37,334
EPA funds 28,000
Match 9,334

This is the first wetlands protection program grant to the Spirit Lake Tribe. The purpose of this grant will be to build the basic foundation for a tribal wetlands program. Through this grant, the Tribe will achieve three objectives: 1) The Tribe will train staff in the science of wetland analysis and biological assessment. 2) The Tribe will transfer existing wetlands and watershed data from BIA and USGS GIS systems onto tribal computers and merge the data bases. 3) The Tribe will develop a wetlands conservation plan that will be used to set the long term direction for their program.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

Title: Wetland Program Development
Agency: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
P.O. Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855
Contact: Mary Price
406-675-2700 Office
406-675-2713 FAX
maryp@cskt.org E-mail
Funding FY 2000
Total Project \$86,667
EPA Funds \$65,000
Tribal Match \$21,667

Hydrologic Unit Code: 17010212-Lower Flathead

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will continue with the development of a comprehensive Tribal wetlands protection program in refining the Tribal water quality standards by making it more applicable to wetlands in developing a definition of wetlands and developing a use classification system for wetlands. The Tribe will also develop a brochure to educate the public about actions they can take to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native species in wetland areas. Complete an inventory of ecologically significant wetlands for the Little Bitterroot River watershed. The tribal wetlands coordinator will begin to assess progress in meeting EPA's "Core Essential Elements" of a wetlands protection program.

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

Title: Wetlands Conservation Plan
Agency: Northern Cheyenne Natural Resources Department
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043
Contact: Desmond Rollefson

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|---------|--|----------|
| | 406-477-6503 Office | |
| | 406-477-8294 FAX | |
| | fdrmahp@hotmail.com | E-mail |
| Funding | FY 2000 | |
| | Total Project | \$51,707 |
| | EPA Funds | \$38,780 |
| | Tribal Match | \$12,927 |

The Northern Cheyenne Wetlands Conservation Program will develop a Final Wetlands Conservation Plan. In a previous wetland grant, remote sensing was used to locate wetlands along streams and creeks. Therefore Riparian Health Evaluations is selected as the field method. Using the field results from the evaluations in conjunction with Wetlands ArcView, a GIS database will be developed so that data can be analyzed. The conservation plan will be designed to address the following: wetland and riparian conservation, Tribal and national significance issues, Tribal input and concerns, summarize literature reviews, immediate grazing and silvicultural practices, and finally wetland development using a permitting procedure. The plans will provide an informed guide, so that the Tribe may better manage their wetlands resources, while simultaneously promoting the national goal of no net loss of wetlands.

ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES

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|----------|---|----------|
| Title: | Reference sites; biological assessments; reference plant collection | |
| Agency: | Office of Environmental Protection Fort Peck Tribes P.O. Box 1027 Poplar, MT 59255 | |
| Contact: | Myrna Walking Eagle 406-768-5155 PHONE 406-768-5606 FAX eaglet@nemontel.net | |
| | | E-mail |
| Funding: | Total Project | \$67,976 |
| | EPA funds | \$50,982 |
| | Tribe match | \$16,994 |

The Fort Peck Tribes will initiate a process of developing a monitoring and assessment program for wetlands by establishing reference wetland sites to assist in determining future monitoring wetland health by tracking wetland gains and losses. Geographical Information System map layers will be created with a variety of land features that will aid in the determination of making selections of reference sites. The use of EPA's STORET database system will be assessed to determine if the system will complement our data maintenance system to augment our field data and GIS maps. The Tribes also hopes to become active in developing ideas and concepts of biological assessment methods by exchanging and participating in national and local meetings regarding applicable methods to the area. So that the Tribe can use existing bioassessments methods to determine the health of the wetlands. A library of information on biological assessment methods will be available for review for Tribal water quality staff. The Tribes would

like to complete the reference wetland plant collection that was started the summer of 1999. Twenty-nine species of wetland plants were collected from the eastern quarter of the reservation. Knowing that land differs over such a large and broad area, the Tribes suspect a variation of species will be collected from the west end of the reservation. For best representation, collection from the remaining three quarters of the reservation will be completed to be certain that a complete collection of wetland plants is maintained for the Fort Peck Reservation.

CHIPPEWA-CREE TRIBE

Title: Wetland Strategic Plan
 Agency: Chippewa Cree Tribe Natural Resources Department
 R.R.1 Box 800
 Box Elder, MT 59521
 Contact: Jim Morsette
 406-395-4225 Office
 406-394-4195 FAX
jay@cct.rockyboy.org E-mail
 Funding: Total Project \$33,333
 EPA funds \$25,000
 Tribe match \$ 8,333

The Chippewa Cree Tribe will create a multifaceted strategic plan that will use a complete National Wetlands Inventory of the ten quad maps that encompass the reservation, a comprehensive watershed management plan that will include wetland resources management components, achievement of attainable Tribal wetland management goals utilizing Tribally oriented criteria, partnerships with organization's outside of the reservation boundaries that are pursuing management policies conducive to the Tribe's holistic management philosophy.

ASSINIBOINE AND GROS VENTRE TRIBES

Title: Peoples Watershed Reference Site Determination
 Agency: Environmental Protection Office
 Wetlands Management Program
 Fort Belknap Indian Community
 R.R. 1, Box 66
 Harlem, Mt. 59526
 Contact: Dennis Longknife
 406-353-8372 PHONE
 406-353-2797 FAX
dlongknife@hotmail.com E-mail
 Funding: Total Project \$70,960
 EPA funds \$53,220
 Tribe Match \$17,740
 Hydrologic Unit Code of Watershed: 1005009 - Peoples watershed

The Fort Belknap Indian Community will select the best representative wetland sites such as pristine wetland areas in the mountains and impacted sites caused by animal grazing within the Peoples Watershed. Most of the reservation wetlands area are located along the creeks, riverine riparian wetlands, and adjacent to farmlands, depressional -prairie potholes. The Peoples Watershed extends from the Little Rocky Mountains, to the Milk River, and has been identified as a high priority watershed. The methods choose will be The Montana Department of Transportation-method for Functional Assessments, the COE-method for Wetland Delineation's, and the "Cowardin" Classification System will be use in conjunction with the "Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the U.S." The Tribe will also develop a vascular plant reference collection from wetland sites within Peoples Watershed.

BLACKFEET TRIBE

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| Title: | Blackfeet Wetlands Data Analysis | | |
| Agency: | Blackfeet Environment Office P.O. Box 2029 Browning MT 59417 | | |
| Contact: | Mary Clare Weatherwax 406-338-7421 PHONE 406-338-7451 FAX blktfenv@3rivers.net E-mail | | |
| Funding: | Total Project | \$99,270 | |
| | EPA funds | \$65,000 | |
| | Tribe Match | \$ 24,818 | |
| Hydrologic Unit Code: | 10010002 - St. Mary River watershed 10050001 - Milk River watershed 10030202 - Cut Bank Creek watershed 10030201 - Two Medicine River watershed | | |

The Blackfeet Tribe will organized their 1994-1999 wetland data on EPA's STORET database. After the organization, the data will be grouped and analyzed into the four watersheds located on the Blackfeet Reservation, as defined in their Unified Watershed Assessment. Based on the analytical results, the four watersheds will be prioritize from the most impacted to least impacted from human activities and designating pristine wetlands.